



Fred Catel, W9DTK
1892-1969



Feb. 1970
A.R.E.C.

Robert L. Goldstein, K9KJT
Emergency Coordinator, Milw. Co.

"HAM GOES TO THE OPERA"

Fred joined the ranks of the "SILENT KEYS" December 14, 1969 as a result of a heart attack at his home at the age of 77. While W9DTK has not been active in recent years, either in MRAC or Ham radio, he was very active during the 1920's. He was Vice-President of MRAC in 1925, President in 1926 and 1947, business manager for several terms and was one of the original life members. He was editor of the Badger ARRL News, published by MRAC, in 1926. He was also active in the promotion of the Club's annual QSO parties, the initiations into the "Royal Order of the Wouff Hong" and other ham activities. At that time Fred worked for the Milwaukee Park Board and lived at the north end of Lake Park. At that location he was the most active ham station in town and handled a great deal of traffic--on CW of course!

In earlier days, Fred used the call sign "FC" in 1910, prior to the passage of the first laws regulating wireless passed in 1912. At the O.T.'s Nights, he used to tell about hanging around the United Wireless station "MK" at the Pabst Brewery. This early spark transmitter used one of the famous United Wireless "coffins"--an open core transformer which drew a couple of kilowatts off the AC line. Using a "solid state" receiver--of the carborundum variety!--this station worked the ships on Lake Michigan on 600 meters. It is interesting to note that the call sign "MK" is still used here by the Milwaukee Police Department's inter-zone radio-telegraph station. When the Milwaukee Police Dept. went on the air with WPDK in 1930, Fred was hired as the number one electrical mechanic soon after. He held this post until leaving for active Naval service.

When Matty W9ZN and Schnell W9EK were organizing hams into the Naval Reserve in 1926, Fred signed on as a commissioned officer. He was in active duty during WWII and retired in 1955 with a rank of Captain in the Reserves. After WWII he returned to the PD and after a few years, retired to operate Catel's Radio Shop at 17th and Wisconsin. In later years his hobby became painting in which he was widely acclaimed. His story is the story of early Ham activities.

Herb Wareing, W9NY

CHATTER & BAND ACTIVITIES

Herb Baker, W9GSP retired from Wisconsin Electric Power Co. after 45 years, mostly in radio communications.

John, W9GIL was called by G6ZO on 7 MHz Cw and was told that W9GIL was his first W9 in 1936!

New roster going to press soon. Send any changes or corrections to Charlie Dawson, W9CUW. Also, send ARRL renewal membership to him for a savings. His address is 2345 W Skyline Road, Glendale, Wisconsin. 53209, Phone 352-9285.

Charley Ackermann, W9OWM and XYL Marge took a trip to Europe recently.

Some SS results were as follows: K9CAN 77,950 cw, W9GIL 10,164 cw and 12,380 fone, W9GJP 6,084 fone, W9CTI 7,585 cw, and WN9BGJ 2,100 cw.

K9CAN got his Extra Class so OM W9GIL, not to be outdone, also passed his on his first try.

SILENT KEYS

Hugh Wilson W9NAV
Fred Catel W9DTK
William Birch K7KCJ, ex-W9PNC



When grand opera is mentioned the popular conception of a menu is caviar and Champagne, but when the Florentine Opera Company of Milwaukee put on their opening performance of "Aida" in Milwaukee's new Performing Art Center there was a serving of ham, (amateur radio ham), or rather hams served the opera.

Because of the magnitude of the production, over 400 individuals took part, and with a cast of over 250 the Art Center did not have dressing room facilities with intercom. Three rooms not designed as dressing rooms and without intercom were used by the overflow of the cast.

The production management felt there would be problems so the A.R.E.C. was asked to furnish auxiliary communications. This was a new approach to communications by the Opera Company and a new assignment to the A.R.E.C., so we all played it by ear for the preliminary sessions. But by the time of the dress rehearsals we had a system with handi-talkies functioning.

This operator feels we were needed and that we filled that need. I wish to thank all those who helped carry out this assignment: WA9JOV, W9ATK, W9SUF, WA9MME, WA9RYR, W9VQD, W9CUW, and K9PSX.

Wells Wait, WA9MLL

OPEN HOUSE

The next Open House will be at our Prexy's shack on Sunday, Febr. 22nd from 2 PM to 4 PM. In order to help clean his shack, visitors will be asked to each take one "thing" Dick Oberholtzer, W9ZPV lives at 1110 Lower Ridgeway, Elm Grove. Directions: Go west on Watertown Plank Road and straight out on Juneau Blvd. to the second road past the RR tracks. Turn South, then take the left fork.

The March Open House will be at John Scervaci, W9GIL's. His address is 910 East Calumet. This is a chance to see a top-notch DXer's shack. Date is March 29th, from 2 PM to 4 PM.

The first Open House was held at Walt Glish, W9YYW. There were over 12 hams and beginners. Walt demonstrated CW, 2-meter Operation, 10-meter net and RTTY. Walt's gear consists of Drake 2B, Collins 32S3, Central Electronics 100 V (for sale see ad) and his 2-meter gear is a homebrewed 3-channel rack and panel job. It features pilot lights indicating channel in use and can be switched to memory. He has two RTTY rigs and can send to himself, hi! Standby rcvr is a Helli S40B and a Wireless Set #19 (whazzat?). It was too dark to see his antennas at the bottom of Wauwatosa.

JOINS STAFF

Russ Burlingame, ex-WN9SVG volunteered to help on the HAM! CHATTER staff. This doubles the editorial staff to 2! Russ is an artist so the paper will be improved by his talents. He will not remain an ex-W9 much longer, he says, then up the ladder! Previously he had edited, published and struggled with the F.R.A.C. publication "Q-R-Z" so he comes well equipped to help edit, publish and struggle with us! Welcome aboard!!

PASSED EXAMS CONGRATS!

John W9GIL Extra
Dick K9CAN Extra
Wally W9YYW Extra
Jack K9GZK Advanced
Sus WN9BGJ General
Dave WN9BWP General



'Not So DX'- From Other Clubs & Organizations

Megacycle

racine

The club is composed of hams from Racine, Kenosha, Burlington and Waterford areas. Meetings are on the 2nd and 4th Mondays in the Civil Defense room in the Safety Building in downtown Racine. Visitors cordially invited. Club is active on 29.6 MHz FM with 10 mobile and 5 base stations. Plans are being made to use the 29.5 rigs during a road rally held here as base and checkpoints. The SET exercises will be participated in again. With non-amateurs in the club, theory sessions are held for them and others that wish to upgrade themselves.

OFFICERS

President Lane Gehrig, WA9WEZ
Vice Pres. Ken Fonstad, WA9TBQ
Sec.-Treas. Bill Erickson, WA9TPQ
Lane Gehrig, WA9WEZ

Hamtrix

west allis

WARAC holds its meetings on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 8:00p.m. Visitors welcome! Meeting place is at the McKinley Field House, 1000 South 72nd Street. The annual Christmas Party was held on December 9 at the fieldhouse. The ladies auxiliary served ham, beef, two potato salads, beans, jello, cakes and more deserts plus pre-party punch bowl. Raffle tickets for the Ranger xmtr is going slow. Shell out fellows! Norm, W9SKF, bemoans the lack of homebrewers PLUS lack of operators when needed.

Lynn Tamblyn, WA9KRF

Bear Facts

bell

BELL EMPLOYEE AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY OF WIS.

The meeting place at Torbeck's is no longer available. This won't keep 'em from having the usual Winter "T" Party. Sure enough, Jan. 1970 issue announced the "Winter 'W.H.' Party" (formerly 'T' Party) to be held at WESTWARD HO restaurant on January 16th.

NEW OFFICERS

President Walt Fitting, W9OI
Secretary Ray Baumdicker, K9HNR
Still Treas. Charlie Dawson, W9CUW

QRZ

menomonee falls

The Menomonee Falls Radio Amateur Club meets on the last Tuesday of every month at the Menomonee Falls Village Hall, Emergency Operating Center. The current roster lists 27 members, some of whom are also members of the Milwaukee Club. Bob Francisco, W9DIM, showed his frequency counter pre-scaler at a recent meeting. Using 3 IC's, it extends a 1 MHz top frequency counter to about 30 MHz. It uses only about 10 millivolts at its input.

Elections held Jan. 27 re-instated all regular officers, as published in the previous Hamateur - Chatter issue, plus two board members: Harland Craft, WA9LAF, and Jack McLeland, W9ATK.

The January meeting also included the "Clean-Up-The-Shack-&-Sell-That-Junk" mart. There were some who went home smiling - and others carried the same "goodie-boxes" that they came with.

HAM-ADS

SELL OR SWAP - - Apeco Dry Copy Machine, with 8½ X 11 & 8½ X 14 paper: \$75 or ? Cent.Elec.100V \$300. Walt Glish, W9YYW, 453-6693

FOR SALE -- Hickok Mod. 121 Cardomatic Tube-Checker: \$55. Boonton Sig. Gen. Mod. 82: \$165. Wally, W9FQV, 781-3799

Feedback

ozaukee

Ozaukee Radio Club meets monthly on progressive days of the week so everyone gets a chance to attend a few meetings a year. The next meeting days are Feb. 12 and Mar. 13 at the Hilltop School at 8:00 p.m. Hilltop School is at the junction of Highways 32 and 33 in Port Washington. Their post-Christmas, post-New Year, pre-Valentine dinner will be held after the SET exercises Jan. 24. New club shoulder patches have been ordered so Ozaukee will be identified at Hamfests, etc. An ambitious 2-meter xmtr-rcvr project is past the planning stage. The club has a net on 144.55 and invites the Milwaukee boys to report in.

OFFICERS

President Jeff Klopp, WA9YBM
Vice Pres. Grant T. Kritchman, WA9SFI
Treasurer Richard F. Husting, Sr. WA9TZU
Secretary Daniel J. Smies, WA9RPB
Ed Bach WA9BMA

W9HHX

MILWAUKEE SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

The M.S.O.E. Amateur Radio Club is the oldest student organization on the campus and dates back to 1910. Presently the membership is 27. It represents a high degree of technical proficiency in all phases of ham radio and electronics. Among them are three extra class, nine advanced and three first class radio telephone licensees. New growth is also seen in the club with five non-licensed and two novices.

The club station is well equipped and includes the following and more: Collins 75A4, 30S1, C.E. 100E, the famous "Black Box" with PP 4-400's, Clegg Interceptor on 6-meters, Motorola D33GGV on 2-meters, RTTY Model 15 and Peforstor, TH 6 Tribander, 3-el Quad tribander, 11-el on 6 meters and dipoles on lower frequencies. The highlight of the fall term was the purchase of new equipment for novice operation. This is the first addition of new equipment in five years and was undertaken thru dues. The new equipment is a Drake 2B and a Johnson Ranger. This new rig affords a back-up station to the main station.

Operating proficiency of W9HHX members remain high. Three exotic DX were contacted this fall: Saudi Arabia, Laos and Mongolia. They were the second station to work Cape Kennedy ham station WB4ICJ after Apollo XI lift off for which they received a commemorating certificate. In Field Day tests, they were 15th in the country and 1st in Wisconsin. They operated from Lapham Peak with two transmitters operating with portable generators and ten operators. They amassed a total of 1350 contacts, bettering the previous year by forty per cent. They received second place in "Worked All Europe" RTTY contest last spring but their top honor is the "Worked All Zones" award after twenty years of effort.

Regular meetings are held in the Allen-Bradley Theater basement every three weeks. The remainder of the year schedule is as following: Feb. 20, Mar. 13, Apr. 3, Apr. 24 and May 15 at 7 p.m. All visitors welcome!!

OFFICERS

President Lee Michaud, K800V
Vice Pres. Roger Hoffman, WA9IYA
Treasurer Richard Drew, K9PJB
Secretary Ted Williams, WA9IOC
Lee Michaud, K800V

SELL: 1-TPS 592A/UPM-15 Pulse Gen \$40. 1-Heath Q Mtr New \$40. K9ISI, 4549 N.38, Milwaukee, 53209